

REMARKS

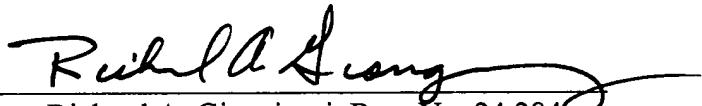
Claims 1-7 have been canceled, and Claims 8-10 are currently pending.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct. 13, 2004

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725377.WPD

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
Inventor: Josef ESSER
Title: SELF-LOCKING FASTENING DEVICE
Attorney Docket No.: 2086/42184/7-PCT-US